

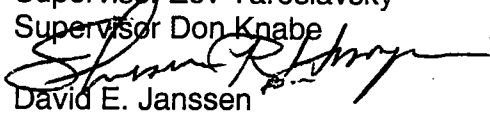


County of Los Angeles CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE

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DAVID E. JANSSEN
Chief Administrative Officer

April 27, 2006

To: Mayor Michael D. Antonovich
Supervisor Gloria Molina
Supervisor Yvonne B. Burke
Supervisor Zev Yaroslavsky
Supervisor Don Knabe
From: 
David E. Janssen
Chief Administrative Officer

Board of Supervisors
GLORIA MOLINA
First District

YVONNE B. BURKE
Second District

ZEV YAROSLAVSKY
Third District

DON KNABE
Fourth District

MICHAEL D. ANTONOVICH
Fifth District

SACRAMENTO UPDATE

Pursuit of County Position on Legislation

SB 1288 (Cedillo), as amended on April 17, 2006, would increase the scope of benefits and reimbursement rates contained in Drug Medi-Cal in order to provide access to an appropriate continuum of care for youths from 12 to 20 years of age suffering from substance abuse disorders. It would codify the existing youth treatment guidelines of the California Department of Alcohol and Drug Programs and direct the California Department of Health Services to seek Federal financial participation for these expanded services, but the legislation stipulates that these services shall be covered under Medi-Cal regardless of Federal financial participation.

According to the County Alcohol and Drug Program Administrators Association of California (CADPAAC), currently there is no planned or organized system of care for young people and their families in need of alcohol and other drug treatment services. There is also a significant gap between treatment need and treatment capacity for adolescents. In 2002, an estimated 468,000 persons between the ages of 12 and 18 in California had an alcohol or drug problem that warranted treatment, but only 18,965 were admitted to publicly-financed alcohol and drug treatment programs. The Medi-Cal system for adolescent substance abuse services does not allow for the level of care called for by the State's existing treatment standards.

The Department of Health Services (DHS) indicates that substance abuse problems among adolescents underlie many other problem behaviors including delinquency, violence, school truancy and drop-out, unsafe sex and teen pregnancy, and drunk driving and related traffic accidents. The Probation Department notes that SB 1288 would assist in diverting at risk

youth from the juvenile justice system and reducing recidivism among adolescents who have been incarcerated in County juvenile facilities. DHS and the Probation Department recommend that the County support SB 1288 because it would provide additional funding which would help address the unmet need for adolescent alcohol and drug treatment in California, and we concur. Consistent with County policy to support proposals for funding to enhance the alcohol and drug services system of care for adolescents to address the growing problems associated with adolescent alcohol and drug use, **our Sacramento advocates will support SB 1288.**

SB 1288 is sponsored by the author and supported by the California Association of Alcoholism and Drug Abuse Counselors, California Council of Community Mental Health agencies, California Medical Association, California Mental Health Directors Association, California Probation, Parole and Correctional Association, California School Nurses Association, California State Association of Counties, CADPAAC, Drug Policy Alliance Network, Juvenile Court Judges of California, and the Urban Counties Caucus, among others. It is opposed by the Citizens Commission on Human Rights, established by the Church of Scientology. SB 1288 passed the Senate Health Committee by a vote of 5 to 4 on April 19, 2006, and is awaiting hearing in the Senate Appropriations Committee.

Status of County-Interest Legislation

County-supported, if amended, AB 1873 (Torrico), which would: (1) raise the age at which an infant can be surrendered from 72 hours old or younger to up to 30 days; (2) expand the definition of a Safe Surrender site to include a local fire agency upon the approval of the local governing body of the agency responsible for accepting physical custody of a minor child; and (3) appropriate \$5 million to the California Department of Social Services to conduct a statewide awareness campaign publicizing the existence of safe-surrender sites, passed the Assembly Human Services Committee on April 25, 2006 by a vote of 6 to 0, and now proceeds to the Assembly Appropriations Committee.

County-supported AB 1979 (Bass), which would waive fees for conducting State criminal background checks for volunteer mentors of foster children, passed the Assembly Human Services Committee on April 25, 2006 by a vote of 4 to 0, and now proceeds to the Assembly Appropriations Committee.

County-opposed AB 2157 (Chu), which would amend the 1993 Community Redevelopment Reform Act (AB 1290) to allow the City of El Monte and the El Monte Community Redevelopment Agency to amend the Downtown El Monte Redevelopment Project to carry out transit-oriented projects, was scheduled for a hearing on April 25, 2006 before the Assembly Committee on Housing and Community Development, however, our Sacramento advocates have learned the author intends to drop the bill.

County-supported AB 2161 (Hancock), which would establish the Unified Resource Families Assessment Pilot Project in five volunteer counties to merge multiple, duplicative processes for licensing and approving relatives, foster families and adoptive parents who care for abused and neglected children, was placed on the Assembly Appropriations

Committee's Suspense File on April 26, 2006, because of potential increased costs to the State's General Fund.

County-supported AB 2193 (Bass and Cohn), which would require the State to change the methodology for budgeting caseload standards for the child welfare program, was placed on the Assembly Appropriations Committee's Suspense File on April 26, 2006, because of potential increased costs to the State's General Fund.

County-opposed unless amended AB 2987 (Nuñez), which would create a statewide franchising authority for the provision of cable or video services to be administered by the Department of Corporations was heard in the Assembly Committee on Utilities and Commerce on April 24, 2006. Speaker Nuñez noted that the issues presented by local governments, community groups, cable operators and consumer advocates are valid and he will work to make necessary adjustments to the bill before it reaches the Assembly floor. He offered to address various concerns, including which State agency would be most appropriate for oversight, administration of local revenues, local rights-of-way, build out, non-discrimination, and provision of Public Educational and Governmental channels.

Supporters testified that the bill would increase competition and lower the cost of cable television. However, opponents indicated that this bill would increase the technological divide between wealthy and poor consumers and it would be unfair to cable companies that are bound by existing contracts with cities and counties. It should be noted that, in response to repeated direct questions, cable TV representatives said they would support the abrogation of existing contracts among several options of being given equal access to a new, mandatory State video franchising system.

Among those testifying on behalf of local governments in opposition to the bill were the California State Association of Counties, the Urban Counties Caucus, the League of California Cities, the counties of Sacramento, San Diego, and Santa Barbara, and several cities. Those in opposition cited the potential loss of local taxes and fees by local governments.

AB 2987 passed the Assembly Committee on Utilities and Commerce on April 24, 2006 by a vote of 9 to 0, and now proceeds to the Assembly Appropriations Committee. The Speaker indicated that the bill will go to the Appropriations Suspense File and be held there for approximately three weeks like all other bills costing in excess of \$150,000. He added that the time on Suspense will be used to develop amendments to address the concerns that were raised in Monday's hearing.

County-opposed SB 926 (Florez), which would have permitted the Kern County Board of Supervisors to adopt an ordinance to regulate or prohibit the land application of sewage sludge in the unincorporated areas of Kern County, was amended on March 21, 2006 in the Assembly Local Government Committee.

As amended, SB 926 would require the completion and certification of an environmental impact report (EIR) on a proposed solid waste facility that informs the voters of the project's

scope and impact on the environment before a local initiative may be placed on the ballot that proposes to amend a city or county's general plan or zoning ordinance to allow the siting of a solid waste facility. The county, in which the solid waste facility is proposed to be sited, is the lead agency, and it would be required to make the EIR publicly available at the county's headquarters and on the Internet. The Department of Public Works reviewed the bill and indicates that it has no objections to the amended version. **Therefore, we will drop our opposition to SB 926 and take no position on the bill.**

County-supported SB 1576 (Murray), which would eliminate the 60 percent county match requirement for the Transitional Housing Program for foster youth, passed the Senate Human Services Committee on April 25, 2006 by a vote of 3 to 1, and now proceeds to the Senate Appropriations Committee for a hearing on May 1, 2006.

County-supported SB 1848 (Committee on Business, Professions and Economic Development), which would have repealed the sunset date authorizing the Los Angeles County Department of Agricultural Commissioner/Weights and Measures to charge a \$5 fee for each structural fumigation, was amended on April 25, 2006 and now relates to barbering and cosmetology. According to the California Department of Pesticide Regulations, the language previously contained on SB 1848, will be shifted to another yet to be determined bill. Therefore, **our Sacramento advocates will take no position on SB 1848.**

We will continue to keep you advised.

DEJ:GK
MAL:JF:IGR:cc

c: All Department Heads
Legislative Strategist
Local 660
Coalition of County Unions
California Contract Cities Association
Independent Cities Association
League of California Cities
City Managers Associations
Buddy Program Participants